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TYPES OF ADVISORIES

Bulletin

Describes current developments or general trends regarding threats of terrorism.

Elevated Alert

Warns of a credible terrorism threat against the United States.

Imminent Alert

Warns of a credible, specific and impending terrorism threat against the United States.

**Office of Protective
Services**

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NASA CI/CT MONTHLY NEWS UPDATE – April 2020

This monthly newsletter is published to inform NASA personnel of significant issues related to counterintelligence, counterterrorism, and counterintelligence cyber matters. To learn more about CI/CT awareness, or to schedule a CI/CT presentation, please contact the CI point of contact located on the last page.

Significant Counterterrorism (CT) Issues:

NEW ISIS LEADER NOW 'SPECIALLY DESIGNATED GLOBAL TERRORIST' BY US



The new leader of the Islamic State (ISIS) group has been declared a “specially designated global terrorist,” according to the State Department. The agency said the designation for Muhammad Sa’id Abdal-Rahman al-Mawla prohibits Americans from engaging in any transactions with him.

<https://www.foxnews.com/world/new-isis-leader-to-be-labeled-specially-designated-global-terrorist-by-us>

NEW AQ LEADER VOWS THAT THE GROUP WOULD BECOME A 'NIGHTMARE'

The newly-appointed leader of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) vowed the terrorist organization would become a “nightmare to Americans”, according to news reports. Saudi-national Khaled bin Batarfi pledged allegiance to AQ leader Ayman al-Zawahiri recently.



<https://www.albawaba.com/news/new-al-qaeda-leader-vows-terror-outfit-would-become-nightmare-americans-1346441>

HOW THE CORONAVIRUS IS RESHAPING TERRORISTS' ATTACK PLANS



As the novel coronavirus reshapes virtually every facet of American life, it's also coloring how aspiring terrorists plot attacks. And that shift has caught the attention of American national security officials

<https://www.politico.com/news/2020/03/27/coronavirus-terrorism-justice-department-150870>

Significant Counterintelligence Issues:

CHINA'S MILITARY IS STEALING ITS WAY TO SUPERPOWER STATUS

China's state-run arms industries have acquired know-how by hook and crook, and occasionally churn out weapon systems that are entirely too similar to American designs to be a coincidence.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/chinas-military-stealing-its-way-superpower-status-127072>





DEFENSE DEPARTMENT LINGUIST IN IRAQ CHARGED WITH ESPIONAGE



A Defense Department linguist has been charged with espionage after allegedly sharing classified information about active human intelligence assets with a person connected to the terrorist group Hezbollah, authorities said recently. Mariam Taha Thompson, 61, was arrested at a U.S. Special Operations Task Force facility in Erbil, Iraq, where she worked as a contract linguist.

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/04/defense-department-linguist-charged-with-espionage.html>

EX-CIA ENGINEER CHARGED IN MASSIVE LEAK - 'ANGRY AND VINDICTIVE'

Federal prosecutors said that a software engineer on trial for the largest leak of classified information in CIA history was “prepared to do anything” to betray the agency. Joshua Schulte is a former CIA coder accused of sending the anti-secrecy group WikiLeaks a large portion of the agency’s computer hacking arsenal — tools the agency had used to conduct espionage operations overseas.



<https://www.foxnews.com/us/prosecutors-describe-ex-cia-engineer-charged-in-massive-leak-as-angry-and-vindictive>

Analyst Notes – Items to Watch:

As ISIS makes a slow and steady comeback, the West is attempting to pressure its leadership with military and police actions. A resurgent Al-Qaeda (AQ) continues to threaten the West with terrorist attacks against the United States. The entire globe is affected by the current Coronavirus pandemic, including terrorist groups that want to harm the US. Even in the midst of a global pandemic, espionage against the United States continues, from Chinese efforts to steal military technology to secrets being passed to Hezbollah in Lebanon. The NASA CI/CT division continues to monitor these threats and any others that have the potential to harm NASA or its equities.

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